

South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice

REPORT CARD

for 2012





A REPORT CARD TO OUR CITIZENS

From the Director



Margaret Barber,
DJJ Director

As I reflect on the past 12 months in preparation for the Department of Juvenile Justice 9th Annual “Juvenile Justice Report Card,” I am encouraged by how much we have accomplished in our work to better the lives of children. So many positive changes have occurred within our juvenile justice system since I entered the business, many years ago.

At DJJ, we continue to see a decrease in the number of youth being committed, and that is a huge plus for this state’s juvenile justice system. For the first time, we have seen the front end of the system take the lead.

Because of the progress we continue to make, we have adopted the slogan, “DJJ: Where Change is Possible.” Change is possible for our staff, programs, the agency as a whole, and of course, it is possible for our juveniles.

An example of preparing our youth for the workplace can be seen in the completion of “The House That DJJ Built,” a Habitat for Humanity house built behind the fence at DJJ, lifted over the fence, and transported to a north Columbia neighborhood. The house was framed behind the fence by incarcerated youth and the finished construction was completed by youth in the community under DJJ’s supervision. We were fortunate to have community partners and volunteers to donate funds, equipment, supplies, and in some cases their expertise in construction to assist our youth with skills in the building trade.

As we watched the house being lifted over the fence on our Broad River Road Complex - lifted by donated cranes with the new homeowner watching - it reminded us all that giving back to our community is not something that should ever end, even for incarcerated youth—perhaps even especially for incarcerated youth.

We realized another first with the opening of the “Store of Hope,” a retail store and job readiness center, located on Broad River Road, which sells DJJ youth-made crafts and furniture produced as part of our job training programs. As part of these programs, DJJ youth now have opportunities to learn skills in upholstery, carpentry, welding, auto collision repair, automotive repair, small engine repair, electricity/HVAC, masonry, culinary arts, graphic arts, parenting, sewing, tile work, desktop publishing, personal finance, and integrated business applications.

The Store of Hope is the result of the youths’ efforts and training. Anyone

who doubts the talent and skills they have developed need only visit the Store of Hope to see the quality and craftsmanship evident in the wide array of products.

Additionally, DJJ youth-made products are available in the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism gift shops around the state. We are proud to have had a number of products showcased at the 2012 South Carolina State Fair, where they won numerous awards.

In my time with the agency, I have never seen more opportunity for our youths to learn job and trade skills than I see today in the new DJJ. And that will continue to be a major focus going forward. One of our next steps will be to bring more job training into the community with our Job Readiness for Teens (JRT) program, which will have training sites for youth across the state.

In this Report Card, we present to you a snapshot of the agency as it stands today, and the ways in which we have seen improvement in recent years. From the consistently declining population due largely to so many wonderful juvenile crime prevention efforts, to the decreasing probation and parole caseloads that have followed the expansion of our "Intensive Supervision" program in the community, DJJ continues to move forward.

Thanks to these and the efforts of our many partners throughout the state, I can say that juvenile crime in South Carolina is at an all-time recorded low. Our efforts of reform and progress are increasingly being recognized nationwide by other juvenile justice agencies. From the many awards that DJJ has won from the national Performance-based Standards (PbS) program to the increased interest of other juvenile justice agencies from across the country wanting to visit South Carolina to learn about our evolution as a model for their own reform efforts, our juvenile justice system continues to be a bright beacon which we can all be proud of.

Of course, there is always room for improvement. DJJ will continue to change as needed, adapting our programs to further ensure their success and effectiveness. Changing for the better is always foremost on everyone's mind. We ask our juveniles to change for the better, and we will continue to expect it of ourselves as well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Margaret J. Barber". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Margaret" and last name "Barber" clearly legible. The middle initial "J." is smaller and less distinct.

Director, South Carolina
Department of Juvenile Justice

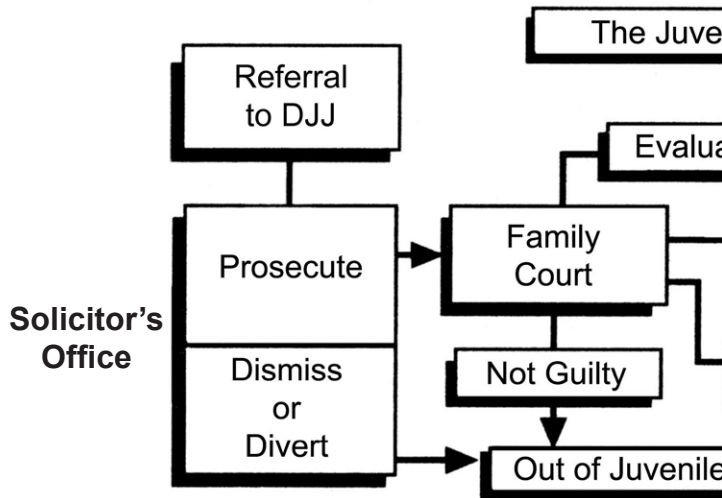


DJJ youth learn skills in upholstery, blueprint reading, and horticulture



DJJ's "Store of Hope"



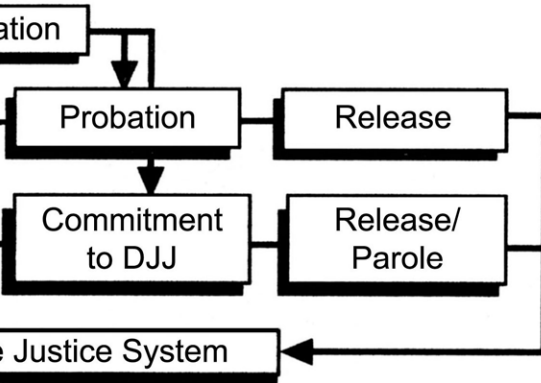


Juveniles usually enter the juvenile justice system in South Carolina when they are taken into custody by law enforcement or when a Solicitor or a school refers them to DJJ. At this stage, personnel at a DJJ county office usually interview the juvenile. DJJ has offices in 43 of South Carolina's 46 counties. Law enforcement also may elect to send the juvenile to a South Carolina juvenile detention center, pending a hearing.

After county office or detention center personnel have interviewed a juvenile, DJJ makes recommendations to the Solicitor's office regarding the case. The Solicitor has a number of options available when deciding how to pursue a case. A Solicitor may choose to divert a juvenile to a community program, such as Juvenile Arbitration, or require the juvenile to make restitution for the offense. Solicitors also may choose to proceed with prosecution or to dismiss a case entirely.

If the Solicitor chooses to prosecute, the next stage of the process involves the family court. A family court judge determines the guilt or innocence of the juvenile and sentences those juveniles adjudicated delinquent (found guilty). Often a judge will request a DJJ evaluation of the juvenile before making a final ruling, or prior to commitment. This evaluation involves psychological, social, and educational assessments conducted either in the community or at one of DJJ's three regional evaluation centers. The resulting comprehensive evaluation helps the judge decide how to proceed in the best interests of the juvenile, victim, and community.

Juvenile Justice Process



A family court judge may find that a juvenile is not delinquent (not guilty). After a finding of delinquency, the judge has several sentencing options. Chief among these is probation, which maintains the juvenile in the community under DJJ supervision. The judge may also commit the juvenile to DJJ custody by imposing a determinate (fixed amount of time) or indeterminate sentence. An indeterminate sentence allows the youth to be confined up to the age of 21.

Upon indeterminate commitment, a juvenile will be given a time range or “guideline,” determined by the state Board of Juvenile Parole (for all felonies and select misdemeanors) or DJJ’s own release authority (for most misdemeanors and all status offenses). This range is based on the severity of the juvenile’s offense and his history of previous offenses. These guidelines can run anywhere from 1-3 months up to 36-54 months. The Board and DJJ use these guidelines – along with an evaluation of the juvenile’s behavior and progress – to determine the length of incarceration.

Juveniles may remain incarcerated beyond their guideline (up to their 21st birthday). They may also be paroled prior to their minimum guideline for exceptional behavior and progress.

Juveniles may be granted conditional or unconditional releases. A conditional release might involve requiring the juvenile to complete a local aftercare program or program at a wilderness camp or group home. A conditional release also involves a period of parole supervision. DJJ county officers supervise juveniles on parole, much as they supervise juveniles on probation.

For more detailed information visit DJJ’s website at:
www.state.sc.us/djj/process.php

CUSTOMER SERVICES

Customers = Victims, Offenders, and the Community

Cases
Referred to DJJ

2011 – 2012	17,180
2010 – 2011	18,114
2009 – 2010	20,394
2008 – 2009	23,111
2007 – 2008	23,826

Five Most Frequent
Offenses Associated
with Referrals to DJJ

- #1 Assault and Battery, 3rd
- #2 Shoplifting
- #3 Disturbing Schools
- #4 Public Disorderly Conduct
- #5 Simple Posses./Marijuana

Offenders
Diverted by Juvenile
Arbitration Programs

2011 – 2012	4,041
2010 – 2011	4,115
2009 – 2010	4,631
2008 – 2009	5,470
2007 – 2008	5,086

Average Daily Population
FY 2011-12

	2011-2012
Hardware Secure Custody (committed and noncommitted)	392
Staff Secure Wilderness Camps	205
Multi-Agency and Therapeutic Placements	221
Marine Programs	89
Mental Health Placements	50
Total:	957

CASE REFERRALS TO DJJ: In FY 2011-12, 17,180 cases were referred to DJJ, a 48% drop in the last nine years. Data collected by DJJ at the time offenders exited the juvenile justice system revealed that 68 percent of cases closed involved males and 57 percent involved African-Americans. The average age at case closure was 16 years old.

FIVE MOST FREQUENT OFFENSES ASSOCIATED WITH REFERRALS TO DJJ: The #1 charge associated with cases referred to DJJ statewide was Assault and Battery, 3rd degree. Only 8% of all cases referred to DJJ involved violent and serious offenses.

OFFENDERS DIVERTED BY JUVENILE ARBITRATION PROGRAMS: Juvenile Arbitration is a program operated in all 16 judicial circuits in South Carolina to divert first-time, non-violent juvenile offenders from the court. In the program, trained citizen volunteers work with offenders/parents, victims, and law enforcement to determine appropriate sanctions.

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION AT DJJ: During Fiscal Year 2011-12, an average daily population of 392 juveniles was held in hardware-secure facilities at DJJ.

DJJ participates in the Performance based Standards (PbS) project of the Council of Juvenile Corrections Administrators. This year, two DJJ facilities achieved Level 4, the highest possible PbS rating, ranking them in the top six to twelve percent of participating PbS facilities in the country.

A Report Card to Our Citizens

CUSTOMER SERVICES

Customers = Victims, Offenders, and the Community

Juvenile Parole & Probation Caseloads in Communities

2011 - 2012	3,819
2010 - 2011	4,293
2009 - 2010	4,388
2008 - 2009	4,973
2007 - 2008	5,075

JUVENILE PROBATION & PAROLE

CASELOADS IN COMMUNITIES: The supervision of offenders in their communities enhances community safety. DJJ's community staff supervised 3,819 juvenile offenders both on probation or parole at the close of Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Eighty-five percent of juveniles on probation or parole, or in Juvenile Arbitration Programs did not re-offend while under supervision.

Youth Served by TASC

2011-2012	1,091 Youth
2010-2011	1,010 Youth
2009-2010	656 Youth
2008-2009	*460 Youth
2007-2008	506 Youth

*Program was eliminated mid-year due to budget cuts

TEEN AFTER SCHOOL CENTERS (TASC):

TASCs are after-school programs that provide mentoring, tutoring, and supervised recreation in the critical after-school hours. After being eliminated in the mid-year budget cuts of 2008, 24 TASC sites were restored in fiscal year 2010. A record 1,091 students were served in 2012. DJJ's new TASC Job Readiness For Teens (TASC-JRT) program (which also provides students with vocational training) was also created in July, 2011.

DJJ School District Graduates

2011 – 2012	116
2010 – 2011	120
2009 – 2010	143
2008 – 2009	147
2007 – 2008	176

SCDJJ SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADUATES: DJJ

operates its own school district for incarcerated offenders, currently with high school and middle school programs accredited by the South Carolina Department of Education. For the ninth year, DJJ's school district received the "Palmetto Gold" award. The passing rate for the General Equivalency Degree (GED) test at DJJ schools is 77%, exceeding the national passing rate of 72%. DJJ's Birchwood School is also accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

A Report Card to Our Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY — A Restorative Benchmark

(Repairing the harm to victims and community)

Restitution to Victims

# of Cases:	805
Amount Ordered:	\$416,813
Amount Paid:	\$255,399
61% of Offenders Paid in Full	

RESTITUTION: Offenders are expected to pay back victims of crime for the harm they have caused. Of 805 cases closed during FY 2011-12, when restitution was ordered, 61 percent of offenders paid in full. The total amount of restitution collected was \$255,399.

Restorative Community Work Service Hours

# of Cases:	3,234
Hours Ordered:	83,906
Hours Worked:	74,195 (88%)
\$ Value:	\$ 537,914 (calculated at minimum wage)

WORK SERVICE: Offenders also are expected to perform work service to repay their community for the harm they caused. In 3,234 cases closed during FY 2011-12, 83,906 hours of community work service were ordered. The number of work service hours completed was 74,195, which is 88 percent of the work service ordered.

Victims Contacted by DJJ

Victims contacted 2011-2012	3,621
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VICTIMS: Victims of juvenile crime are given the opportunity to serve as speakers on victim impact panels. These panels allow victims to tell offenders face-to-face how their crimes have impacted their lives. In FY 2011-2012, 15 victim impact panels were held. Nearly 205 juvenile offenders attended these panel presentations and were able to hear from victims of their criminal behavior.

Additionally, juveniles receive training in victim empathy. In FY 2011-2012, 43 victim impact classes were held in 16 different DJJ county offices. Nearly 333 juvenile offenders took part in these victim impact classes.



A Report Card to Our Citizens

COMPETENCY—A Restorative Benchmark (Offenders developing skills needed to live crime free)

G.R.E.A.T.

# of elementary schools:	14
# of middle schools:	9
# of students:	1,038

DJJ STAFF TEACH G.R.E.A.T. ANTI-GANG

CURRICULUM IN PUBIC SCHOOLS: DJJ staff, certified as instructors in the evidence-based U.S. Department of Justice's G.R.E.A.T. gang prevention curriculum, taught in 14 elementary and 9 middle schools in FY 11-12, reaching 1,038 at risk students.

School Participation

Youth Enrolled in
Educational Program or Voca-
tional Training at Case Closure:
6,600 Youth
(88%)

Youth Not Enrolled but
Employed at Case Closure
16 Youth
(0.2%)

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION: During FY 2011-12, 88 percent of the 7,527 youth completing court orders or Juvenile Arbitration Program sanctions were enrolled in school, an alternative education program, or vocational training. Of the 927 youth not involved in an alternative educational or vocational program, and who were age-eligible (16 years old) to work, 16 were employed. 20 had already graduated and 157 had attained a GED.

Youth Completing Employability Training

2011 – 2012	297
2010 – 2011	160
2009 – 2010	33
2008 – 2009	36

EMPLOYABILITY TRAINING: During fiscal year 2011-12, 76 youth at DJJ's Broad River Road Complex and 221 youth in the community received employability training.

DJJ students received training in workplace skills and in trades such as horticulture, masonry, welding, upholstery, construction, and in many other fields.

Citizen Participation

# of Volunteers:	2,365
Hrs. Contributed:	37,243
Value:	\$615,627 (calculated at \$16.53/hr)*

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/COMMUNITY COM-

PETENCY: During FY 2011-12, 2,365 volunteers stepped forward to assist DJJ and the Solicitors' Arbitration Programs as mentors, arbitrators, tutors, auxiliary probation officers, in other capacities in the community, and in DJJ facilities. Citizen volunteers helped to make our communities safer by contributing approximately 37,243 hours of services.

* This figure for calculating volunteer value is promoted by the South Carolina Association of Volunteer Administration (SCAVA)

COMMUNITY SAFETY — A Restorative Benchmark
(Protecting the public)

17-Year Comparison of
Violent & Serious
Juvenile Cases in
South Carolina

Year	# of Cases
2011-12	1,378
1994-95	3,589

Table A
Juveniles Committed to
the Custody of DJJ

Year	Number
2011-12	1,470
2010-11	1,910
2009-10	1,977
2008-09	1,953
2007-08	2,024

Table B
Daily Population
Juveniles Held in DJJ's
Detention Center

Year	Number
2011-12	64
2010-11	85
2009-10	99
2008-09	108
2007-08	105

Recidivism Rate
Juvenile Offenders on
Probation/Parole or in
Arbitration Programs

Number of Offenders	Recidivism Rate
8,235	15%

VIOLENT & SERIOUS JUVENILE CASES:

Nationally and in South Carolina, juvenile violent crime peaked in the mid-1990's. Since then, violent and serious juvenile crime in South Carolina has decreased by 62% percent. The number of cases includes juveniles referred more than once during the fiscal year.

TRENDS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE: One indicator of trends in South Carolina's juvenile justice system is the number of offenders committed into the custody of DJJ. Table A compares the number of offenders sentenced to DJJ custody over the past five years.

DETENTION: Another indicator of trends is the number of juveniles being held in DJJ's Detention Center pending court action (seen in Table B). Juveniles detained by the family court and law enforcement agencies and determined to be high-risk offenders are held in detention centers. DJJ's Detention Center has had a drop in the daily population from its peak in 2005-2006. This drop correlated with detention reform efforts implemented by DJJ with the assistance of the University of South Carolina's Children's Law Center.

LAW-ABIDING BEHAVIOR: Recidivism is the rate at which juveniles are charged with a new offense. Of the 8,235 cases closed during FY 2011-12, 85 percent of offenders on probation or parole, or in Juvenile Arbitration Programs did not re-offend while under supervision. Offenders receiving DJJ's intensive supervision services were 37.5% less likely to re-offend than those under standard supervision.



**Special Thanks to DJJ's Performance
Measurements Partners (Arbitration Programs)**

The Honorable David M. Pascoe
Solicitor, 1st Judicial Circuit

The Honorable J. Strom Thurmond, Jr.
Solicitor, 2nd Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Ernest A. Finney, III
Solicitor, 3rd Judicial Circuit

The Honorable William B. Rogers, Jr.
Solicitor, 4th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Dan Johnson
Solicitor, 5th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Leon Lott
Sheriff, Richland County

The Honorable Douglas A. Barfield, Jr.
Solicitor, 6th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Barry J. Barnette
Solicitor, 7th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Jerry W. Peace
Solicitor, 8th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Scarlett A. Wilson
Solicitor, 9th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Chrissy T. Adams
Solicitor, 10th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Donald V. Myers
Solicitor, 11th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable E. L. Clements, III
Solicitor, 12th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable W. Walter Wilkins
Solicitor, 13th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Isaac M. Stone, III
Solicitor, 14th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable J. Greg Hembree
Solicitor, 15th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Kevin S. Brackett
Solicitor, 16th Judicial Circuit

Helping Resources for Families and Crime Victims

Parent Support and Training

Parents Anonymous SC (800) 326-8621

Services for People with Disabilities & Special Needs

SC Department of Disabilities &

Special Needs (888) 376-4636

Pro Parents (parent support/training) (800) 759-4776

Services for People with Mental Health Needs

SC Department of Mental Health (803) 898-8581

SC Continuum of Care (803) 734-4500

Federation of Families (866) 779-0402

Managed Treatment Service (803) 245-5147

Job Training & Education Services for Youth

SC Vocational Rehabilitation (800) 832-7526

Job Corps (803) 245-5101

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School (803) 896-6480

Residential Services for Girls

Florence Crittenton Home

(serves pregnant girls) (843) 722-7526

Crossroads Group Home (864) 246-0266

Alcohol/Drug Abuse Treatment/Counseling Services

SC Department of Alcohol

& Other Drug Abuse Services (803) 896-5555

Palmetto Treatment Center (843) 662-9378

William J. McCord Adolescent Treatment Center (803) 534- 2328

Residential Services for Children

SC Association of Children's

Homes & Family Services (803) 996-5437

Carolina Children's Home (803) 787-2306

Connie Maxwell Children's Home (864) 942-1400

Epworth Children's Home (803) 256-7394

Services for Victims of Crime

SC Crime Victim's Ombudsman (888) 238-0697

SC Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN) (888) 852-1900

SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
and Sexual Assault (803) 256-2900

Information on Local Services

DHEC Care Line (800) 868-0404

For additional information regarding resource needs, or services provided by DJJ, please go to **www.state.sc.us/djj**.

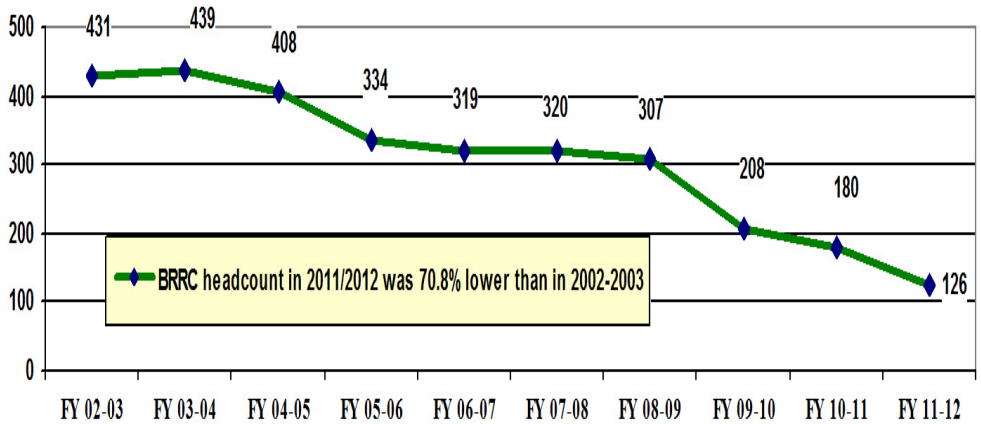


DJJ JROTC students hold flag ceremony to honor veterans



“The House
That DJJ
Built” being
lifted over the
fence at DJJ

IV. Decline of Population within the BRRC: 2003 - 2012



For more information contact:
The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
(803) 896-9518
www.state.sc.us/djj

The printing of this document was generously supported by the Children's Law Center at the University of South Carolina Law School.

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Title IX – Inspector General's Office – 803-896-9595
Title II & 504 – Special Education Office – 803-896-8484